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FORMER CIA DIRECTOR SAYS AMATEURS INVOLVED IN IRAN-CONTRA INCIDENT
MANKATO, MN

William E. Colby, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said Monday night amateurs ran the Iran-Contra incidents.

"One of the lessons one learns about secret operations is that if you are going to run them, you better use the pros," Colby told students and faculty at Mankato State University during a lecture.

"You better not use a bunch of ragtag rug merchants from the Middle East to try to run a delicate secret operation," Colby said. "It isn't going to work."

Colby also criticized Col. Robert North, who has refused to testify about his role in the arms sale to Iran and the siphoning off of profits to fund the Contras in Nicaragua.

"Colonel North was an amateur in this field," Colby said. "He was a very dedicated officer, and I think he certainly thought he was doing what his president wanted done, because his president made it very clear that he wanted the Contras somehow helped."

Colby said the public and Congress may never learn who ordered that money be sent to the Contras from the arms sale. He said the "president's management style is such that we are going to have a hard time finding out who gave what orders to whom."

Colby, who was director of the CIA from 1973 to 1976, also reviewed intelligence and modern technology. He said an agreement can be monitored not because the opponent can be trusted but because the opponent can be watched.

He said modern surveillance by satellite and other techniques will enable the United States to reach an intermediate range arms control agreement with the Soviet Union "not because we trust them, but because we can watch them."